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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 2

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Mr. Bossuyt, Ms. Daes, Mr. Diaz-Uribe, Mr. Eide, Mr. Fix Zamudio, Mr. Joinet and Mr. Weissbrodt: draft resolution

1997/... Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly its article 13, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly its article 12, to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party,

Noting, in the light of resolution 1997/22 of the Commission on Human Rights, that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not included in the list of countries under consideration by the Commission under public procedures (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/33, annex),

Concerned by persistent and concordant allegations that grave violations of human rights are being committed in that country, including recourse to mass internments in administrative detention centres, and by serious restrictions affecting, in violation of article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Deeply concerned by the virtual impossibility of obtaining information or visiting that country to ascertain whether or not there are grounds for the allegations concerning the situation of human rights in that country, and to obtain information concerning the legislation in force and the manner in which it is implemented,

Deploring, in this connection, the delay by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in submitting its first periodic report, due now for almost 10 years,

1. Urgently calls on the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to ensure full respect for article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which relate to the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own and to return to his country;

2. Requests the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its obligations and delay no longer the submission of its first periodic report to the Human Rights Committee and to extend its cooperation with the procedures and services established by the United Nations with the aim of ensuring promotion and protection of human rights;

3. Invites the international community to devote greater attention to the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and thus assist the population of that country in emerging from the isolation in which it is maintained;

4. Also invites the international community to furnish increased assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in order to help it to overcome the present period of food shortage and the suffering it is causing.